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NEGROES MOURN MCKINLEY.

Leaders Say He Was Their Greatest Friend Since Lincoln.

None mourn more sincerely the death of President McKinley than the Negro citizens of the country. Churchmen and laymen in New York united yesterday in paying tribute to his memory and in expressions of sorrow at his assassination.

Under President McKinley's first Administration the Negro race in the country received the highest political preferment in its history. The bishops of the church, and the laymen recognized as leaders were always received cordially by Mr. McKinley and he often expressed to them his deep concern as to the welfare of the race. The Rev. Dr. H. P. Parks, Secretary of the Home and Foreign Mission Department of the A. M. E. Church, said yesterday:

"There were no citizens who held the President in higher esteem than the Afro-Americans. He was the most able statesman that the country has produced and no President has had so many complicated affairs to deal with as he, yet in the discharge of all his duties he exercised great wisdom and much patriotism and Christian fortitude. He was a thorough American and his death is a great loss to his country and to my race. He was deeply concerned about the American Negro and wanted him to attain his full status as a man and a citizen under the American flag. The Negroes everywhere mourn the loss of their greatest friend since Lincoln."

Other colored ministers express similar sentiments.

Musical Note.

Director J. Henry Lewis whose active participation in our musical events was suspended by reason of the sudden death last May of his accomplished daughter and help meet, is now taking up his work for the season. He has just returned from Richmond, Va. with the Amphions, where they gave a highly successful musicale on Labor day. They also sang by special invitation in three of the largest churches there. They are to fill a return engagement before the Holidays. This is the tenth year of the Amphions existence, and Mr. Lewis has good reason to feel elated by their continued success and usefulness. It is probably the oldest organization of the kind in the United States.

The Asbury church choir of which Mr. Lewis is also director, begun its regular work Sunday September 8, and it is his intention to increase the choir membership to forty persons, preparatory to presenting another oratorio before the Holidays.

The Dvorsk Musical Society, another organization that has reflected great credit, will be reorganized during the coming month, and they will doubtless be heard from here or elsewhere during the season. Possibly their first appearance will be in the True Reformers hall, at Richmond, which has ample facilities. Several changes will be made in the cast of characters and the management, but the persons who were the main supporters of Mr. Lewis in the effort to present the "Pirates of Perzance" will be connected with the reorganized society, which will soon be incorporated and become one of our permanent local musical institutions that is as it should be for their effort was highly successful.

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